



News Release

Shelby County Health Department
814 Jefferson Avenue Memphis, TN 38105

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TENnder Care Program (901) 528-0048

CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

MEMPHIS, TN – February has been designated as National Children's Dental Health Month by the American Dental Association. The focus of the observance is to provide oral health education to all children despite their economic status. The Shelby County Health Department's School Based Dental Prevention and the TENnderCare Outreach programs are participating in several outreach activities during the month of February. The purpose of these events is to teach children and their parents about the importance of oral hygiene to overall health. Good health begins at birth, so it's important to Check In, Check Up, and Check back.

Free on-site dental education and incentives for children and adults will be provided on February 20, 2012 at the Cawthon Public Health Clinic, 1000 Haynes Street, across from Melrose High School from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In addition, staff will give educational presentations, provide incentives, and distribute TennCare eligibility flyers to the public and children at the following times and locations:

Children's Museum of Memphis:
2525 Central Avenue
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Shelby County Health Department Lobby:
814 Jefferson Avenue/
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Incentives include toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, and stickers.

PLEASE NOTE: No screenings or cleanings will be done at these locations.

The Shelby County Health Department's School Based Dental Prevention Program is a statewide, year-round dental prevention program funded by TennCare and administered by the Department of Oral Health Services. Preventive services include, but are not limited to screenings, referrals for care, immediate need follow-ups, oral health education, oral evaluations, and dental sealants are provided to children in grades K-8 in various schools. Every city and county school with 50% free and reduced lunch populations is targeted for these services and all children who attend those schools are eligible for the program. Contact your child's school to find out if it participates in this dental program.

TENnderCare is a full program of checkups and health care services for children who have TennCare. These services make sure babies, children, and teens and young adult receive the health care they need. Every child and teen needs regular health checkups, even when they seem healthy.

For more information about these programs or Children's Dental Health Month activities, please call the SCHD School Based Dental Prevention Program at (901) 544-8801 or the TENnderCare program at (901) 528-0048, Monday – Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.